

**DEVICE FOR RETAINING IMPORTANT DATA ON A PREFERENTIAL BASIS**

This application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-315084 filed October 16, 2000.

**Background of the Invention****Field of the Invention**

5           The present invention relates to a data storage device for recording data used in information equipment.

**Description of the Related Art**

10           With the recent development and spread of information equipment, there has been a rapid increase in the amount of data to be stored in a storage device in the equipment. In general, storage devices are subject to a limitation on their storage capacity. When the storage capacity is exhausted, users have to add a new  
15           storage device or medium or delete data already stored. To cope with the limited storage capacity, conventional supervisory camera systems adopt a method which involves automatically deleting old image data and then writing new image data.

20           FIG. 1 illustrates a method to delete files in conventional information equipment. The information equipment 11 is composed of a CPU (Central Processing Unit) 12, a memory 13, an input/output device 14, and a storage device 15, which are all interconnected by a bus 16. When  
25           a new file 17 is added to the storage device 15, an old

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